Amendments to the Specification:

Referring to Fig. 1, in a hardware apparatus for implementing an embodiment of the

invention, a programmable controller 100 receives input from various sources, for example, a

connected image processor 305 connected to cameras 135 and 136, microphone 112, and sensors

141. Sensors 141 may include alarm sensors such as breathing monitors or other SIDS

prevention detectors or any other type of sensor such as temperature sensors, position sensors,

security switches, proximity sensors, electrical load sensors, ambient light sensors, etc. Data for

updating the controller's 100 software or providing other required data, such as templates for

modeling its environment, may be gathered through local or wide area or Internet networks

symbolized by the cloud at 110. An Observer UI 122 and Server 140 are coupled to the network

cloud 110. The controller may output audio signals (e.g., synthetic speech or speech from a

remote speaker) through a speaker 114 or a device of any other modality. For programming and

requesting occupant input, a terminal 116 may be provided.

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